



Multimodal Transportation Commission Minutes

Regular Meeting
August 24, 2016

Attending:

Commission Members: Bruce Emory, Chair,; Philip Lenowitz, Till Dohse, Billie Lofland, Kim Roney, Rich Lee.

Commission Members Absent: Vice-Chair Terri March, Dave Nutter, Kristy Carter, Mary Weber, John Ridout

Council Liaison: Gwen Wisler

Staff Members: Mariate Echeverry, Ken Putnam, Kelly Whitlock, Lucy Crown and Monica Prysock

Community Members: Ken Dierks

Meeting Called To Order: Bruce Emory, Chair, opened the meeting and had everyone introduce themselves.

Approval of Agenda and Minutes:

August 24, 2016 – Agenda: Commission members Till Dohse motioned to approve; Kim Roni second; all approved.

July 27, 2016 – Regular Meeting Minutes: Commission members Till Dohse motioned to approve; Kim Roney second; all in favor.

Public Comment – None

Unfinished Business:

1. I-26 update-Bruce Emory- policies on aesthetics discussed with DOT. Signature bridge design was discussed. Bicycle/Ped projects were also discussed along with I-26 project; Ken Putnam is putting together a subcommittee hopefully before Sept 20th.
2. Comp plan update-Bruce Emory discusses online survey dealing with the comprehensive plan on city website; encouraged all to take a look at it. This item will be on next month's agenda for John Ridout to provide an update on the plan.
3. Open Streets-Till Dohse-On Sunday, Sept 18th from 1pm-4pm. Open street event for ped/bicycles and anyone else who has wheels without a motor. Approximately, forty groups have agreed to come to do things such as yoga, dancing, etc., but no vendors are invited. Volunteers are needed.

New Business:

1. The State Trail – Fonta Flora Trail began as a loop trail around Lake James and has plans to extend to Morganton soon. There are further plans to continue to Marion and then onto Old Fort and into Buncombe County. The municipal partners of the trail are asking the City of Asheville to pass a resolution supporting the extension into Asheville. Lucy Crown asked the MMTC for their recommendation for Council to approve this resolution. Till Dohse motioned to approve; Rich Lee second- all in favor to go to city council.
2. Streamlining process for multi modal membership-Bruce Emory- Discussed meeting with Mariate and Maggie who met this morning to discuss recommendations. Commission Chair, Bruce Emory explained current procedure in place. Also, discussed how now that Transit meets in the same week as Bike and Ped and that an open seat would be advertised for three weeks; positions on Transit and Greenway committee to be advertised on city website to help get advertising out to a broader audience. Council member Gwen Wisler asks if it's the MMTC position that a person has to sit on a committee of candidates' interest before being considered for that committee. Commission Chair Bruce Emory responded "no" and explains MMTC process for candidate approval. Mariate Echeverry brings up ideas on how to appeal to diverse demographics. Commission members explain other changes that will take place in future selections. Commission member Billie Lofland asked, "When the Greenway and Transit Committees; and Bicycle and Pedestrian Task Force recommend members to serve on the MMTC, why aren't these recommendations automatically forwarded to the City Council for consideration?" Commission member Rich Lee states that opportunity is given to all. Rich Lee also states that commission should be open to outside expertise, other commission members agree. Gwen Wisler explains council's position on having a "say" on committee/commission appointments.
3. NCDOT/City Task force-Mariate Echeverry-No updates on issues. Discussion on meeting days discussed but are still in the 'unfinished business' stage. Ken Putnam adds that once issues are more solidified then a report will present to MMTC. Conversations on consistency, priority and budget are still underway.
4. AIM Implementation-Bruce Emory- A special task force is being considered. Commission Chair Bruce Emory asks commission members input on how to deal with the plan implementation, if it should be considered by the entire body or if it should be a task force. Commission members ask about seeing the report online. Mariate Echeverry states that she will follow up and find out what is going on with the link being accessible. Kim Roney questions List of Projects in AIM plan and whether or not they were actual or examples. Rich Lee would like the subcommittee to iron out logistics and present final draft to commission to vote on. Mariate Echeverry states that subcommittee would include her staff along with someone from

planning and whoever commission feels should be on the committee. Commission Chair Bruce Emory states that someone from commission should be on committee as well and asks for volunteers and says he will send out an email to all members asking for volunteers. Meanwhile, commission members Billie Lofland, Kim Roney, Rich Lee and Phillip Lenowitz offer to volunteer. Commission Chair Bruce Emory asks Mariate Echeverry when the meeting will take place- Mariate Echeverry states tentatively in September.

5. **Bond Referendum-Ken Putnam:** Commission members want to know prioritization plan (where did it come from), Ken Putnam answers that is from last year's discussion with Commission. Commission members give suggestions on explanation to how to best handle community questions, regarding money spent specifically on referendum and all its specific projects. Members want to know if there is someone to talk to from a skeptics' point of view. Council member Gwen Wisler explains law on how funds are to be used and states council's commitment on getting projects fulfilled and what criteria that had to be met for projects to make it to the list. FAQ website will be up on 8/26/16-If members have additional questions for the website all are encouraged to submit.

General Committee Updates:

1. **Transit Committee** – Kim Roney reported: “
 - No public comment at the first period of the meeting.
 - Adam and Kim shared their summer experiences of how Gatlinburg and Ocean City promoted bus ridership as a way to deal with limited parking for tourists.
 - Nancy Lohr was introduced as the new GM for First Transit.
 - Transit Center improvements and safety was addressed as an ongoing issue of concern.
 - Presentation from Larry Gould of Nelson-Nygaard Consulting about the Circulator Project including vehicle suggestions proposed free fare; drafts of routes and service; and operation costs. This project is being coordinated with the Parking Study and public input meeting on August 17 at the USCC.
 - At the second public comment period– Amy Cantrell from Just Economics stated the spirit support of the meeting and the work done on the Transit Committee.
2. **Greenway Committee** – Rich reported:
 - Presentation was given from Buncombe County Greenway Department on status report to complete the French Broad River corridor especially up to Woodfin up to the Madison County line to the water treatment center and own into the southern part of the county. Bruce stated that Woodfin is planning to have a bond issue of their own for that connecting trail.
 - Greenway members supported Fonta Flora Trail Extension connecting to East Asheville Greenway that is on the bond referendum that will take the trail from Tunnel Road of Lowe's and Target to potentially Biltmore Avenue to Azalea Park; and the start of mountain to sea trail..
 - Greenway Committee supported the PARTIF grant.
3. **Bike/Ped Task Force Committee:** Till reported:
 - Members looked over I-26 plans. Ken Putnam spoke on some concerns and suggested getting a committee in place.
 - Mike Sule wants city to use NACTO guidelines.
 - Asheville Police “Watch For Me” campaign has initiated the education process and then will do enforcement.
4. **Planning and Zoning Committee** – None
5. **Neighborhood Advisory Committee** – Sept 26th at West AVL library-upcoming events, festival of neighborhoods coming up-November 13th AB Tech. Campaign to get neighborhoods with their relevant information. This is being done informally, however committee would like to establish a more formal way.
6. **Sustainable Advisory Committee on Energy and Environment (SACEE)** -None

MMTC goals:

1. Funding Advocacy-Progress is being made.
2. Communication & Engagement- Committee Chair describes what it is and where it is now. Members met decided to hold off on this until November.
3. Communication & Engagement- Some progress has been made. A rough draft has been drafted-Terri March is working on this. Commission Chair Bruce Emory asks for volunteers from commission members.
4. Safety-Maintained at same level. Till Dohse will be addressing ‘Walk Friendly’ Progress at the next meeting. DOT members spoke about what works and doesn't work for pedestrians and motorists.
5. Policy analysis-Committee Chair Bruce Emory discussed two items:
 - a. To participate and provide comprehensive plan update; and appointment of John Ridout as a representative on the Oversight Committee
 - b. Parking plan – there was not an advisory group tentative; will add an agenda item for next month from either Ken Putnam or a consultant. Bruce explained that part of the study was the downtown circulator and the consultant to the Transit Committee (TC) earlier this month and several TC members attended the workshop the following day. The survey for the downtown Circulator was still open on the city website; the consultant showed a number of phases and the first one was downtown; 2nd phase will be to Biltmore Village; 3rd phase was to the River Arts District and West Asheville.
6. Coordinate with DOT-Improve coordination- progress has been made; Kim Roney asks if any volunteers are needed to meet goals. Committee Chair Bruce Emory says anyone who has expertise in a certain area is definitely welcome to volunteer and

states that this be brought up again at next month's meeting to ask for more volunteers. Rich Lee is concerned about goals not being met and raising concerns.

Staff Updates

1. List of Projects-Mariate Echeverry- Highlighted new updates listed on spreadsheet; suggests having a subcommittee for Neighborhood Sidewalk Program. Committee that Bruce would continue on the committee and would check with Mary; Phil and Billie volunteered to be on the committee.

Future Agenda Items:

1. Update on Parking Study including shuttle.
2. Pedestrian/Bicycle safety audit study.
3. TDM Presentation-Tentative

Meeting Adjourned: 4:56 pm